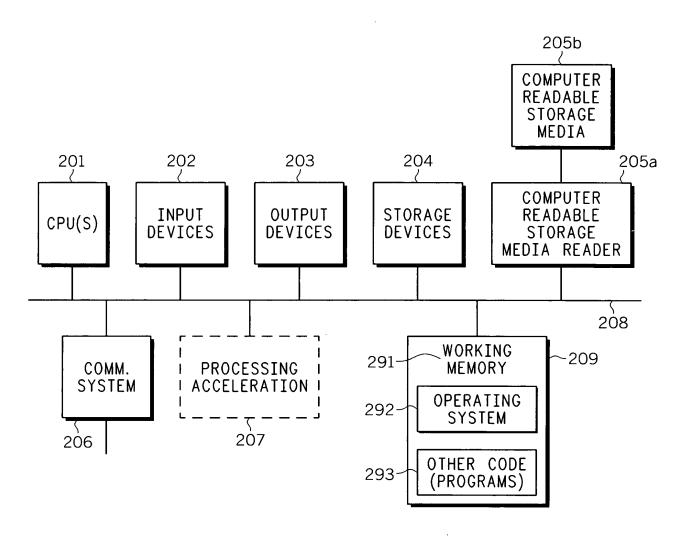


100

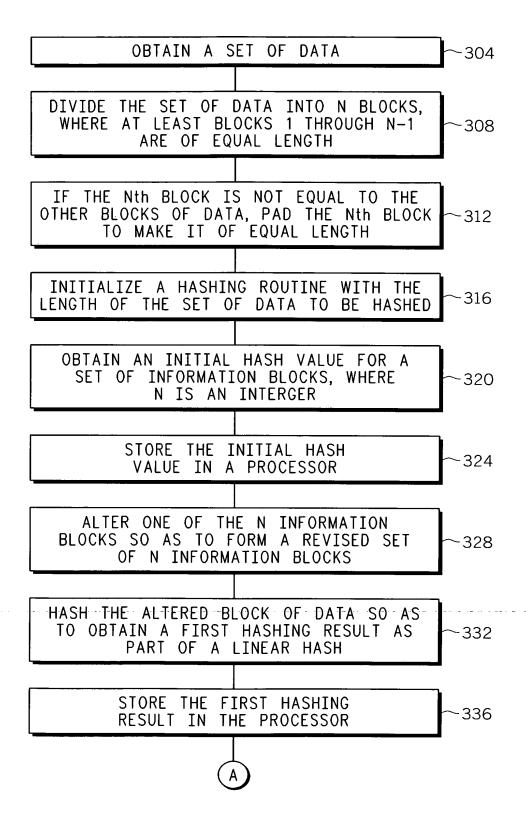
# FIG. 1

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200

FIG. 2



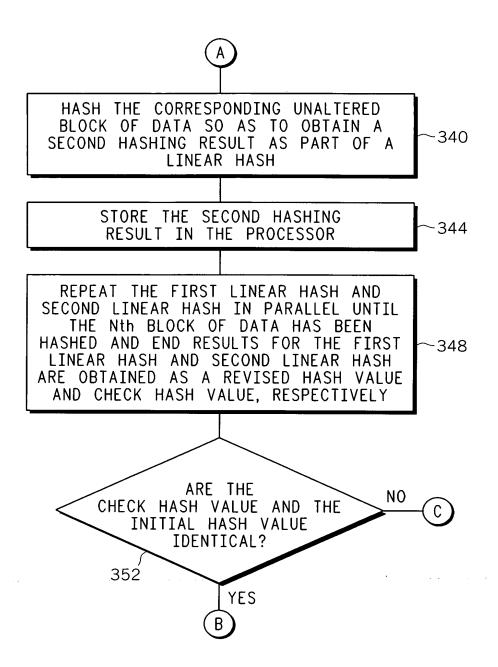


FIG.~3B

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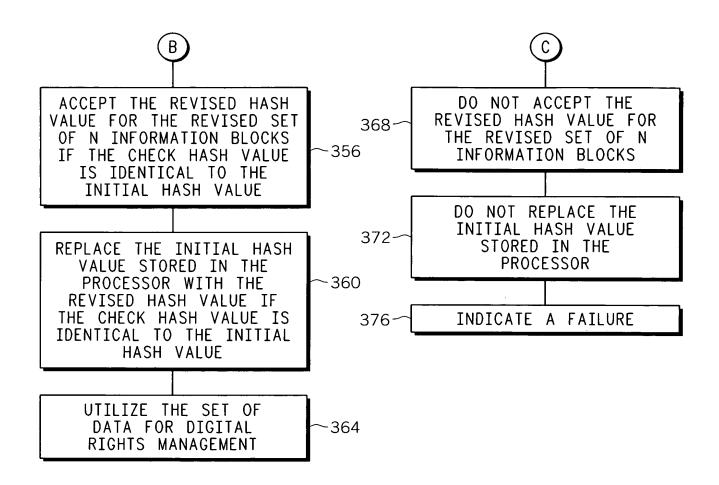


FIG. 3C

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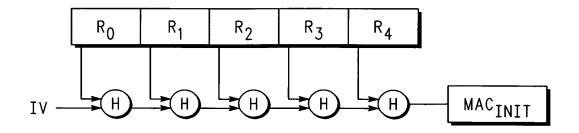


FIG. 4A

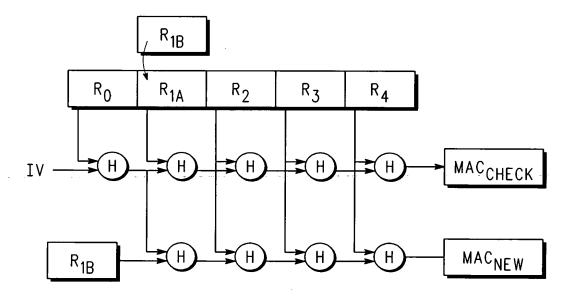


FIG. 4B

7/12OBTAIN AN INITIAL ROOT KEY FOR A SET OF DATA COMPRISED OF A PLURALITY OF -504 BLOCKS OF DATA. THE ROOT KEY OPERABLE FOR AUTHENTICATING THE SET OF DATA CALCULATE HASH KEYS FOR THE PLURALITY OF BLOCKS OF DATA SO THAT EACH OF THE -508 HASH KEYS CORRESPONDS IN A ONE TO ONE RELATIONSHIP WITH ONE OF THE BLOCKS OF DATA STORE THE HASH KEYS FOR THE -512 PLURALITY OF BLOCKS OF DATA ALTER ONE OF THE BLOCKS OF DATA SO -516 AS TO FORM A REVISED BLOCK OF DATA CALCULATE A SECOND HASH KEY FOR THE REVISED BLOCK OF DATA, WHERE THE REVISED BLOCK OF DATA IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO BEING REVISED CORRESPONDS TO A FIRST -520 HASH KEY AND WHEREIN THE FIRST HASH KEY IS ONE OF THE HASH KEYS FOR THE PLURALITY OF BLOCKS OF DATA 500 FIG. 5A FIG. 5BUTILIZE THE STORED HASH KEYS, INCLUDING THE FIRST HASH KEY, TO CALCULATE A CHECK ROOT KEY WHILE UTILIZING THE STORED HASH KEYS 524~ AND THE SECOND HASH KEY SUBSTITUTED IN PLACE OF THE FIRST HASH KEY TO CALCULATE A NEW ROOT KEY COMPARE THE CHECK ROOT KEY 528-WITH THE INITIAL ROOT KEY ACCEPT THE NEW ROOT KEY IF THE CHECK 532-

ROOT KEY MATCHES THE INITIAL ROOT KEY

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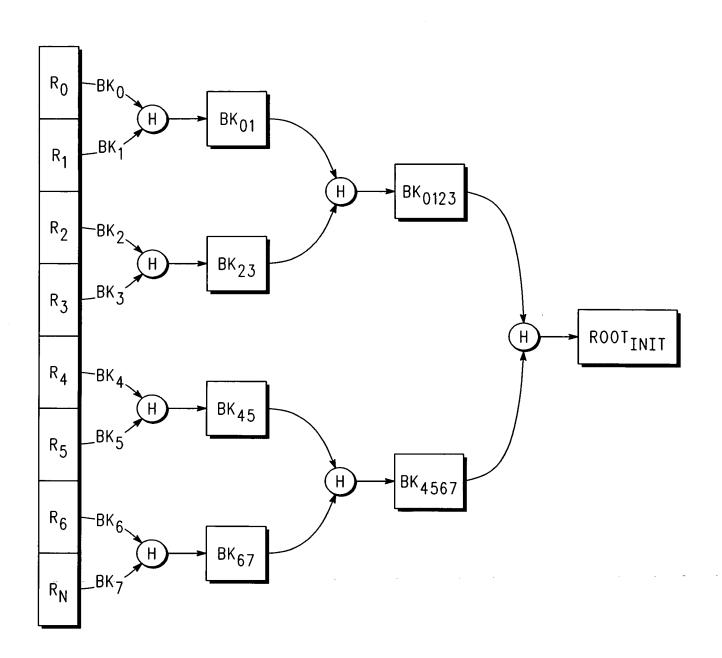


FIG. 6

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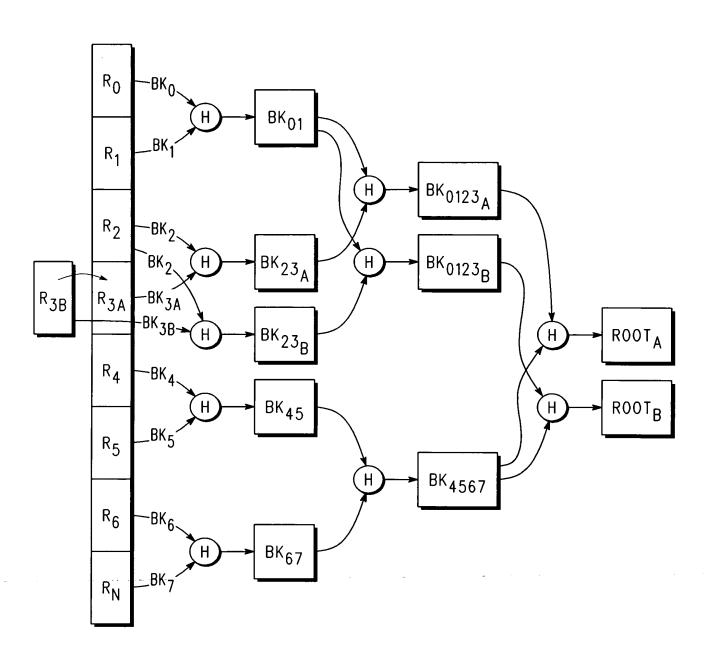


FIG. 7

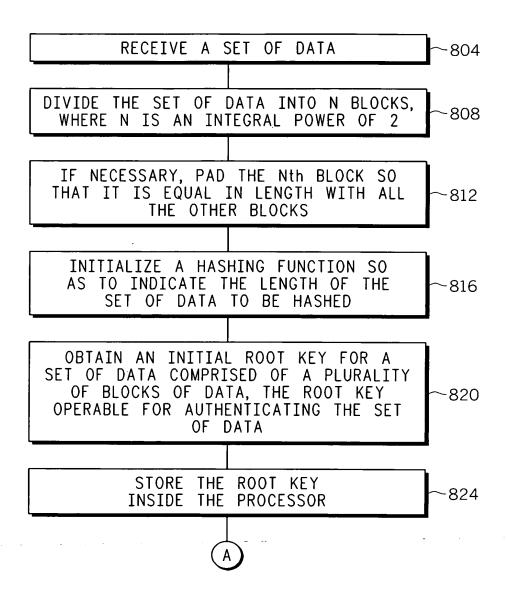


FIG. 8A

800

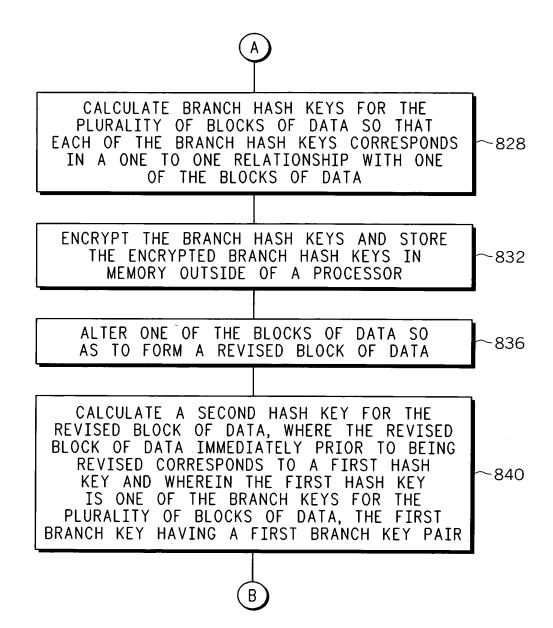


FIG. 8B

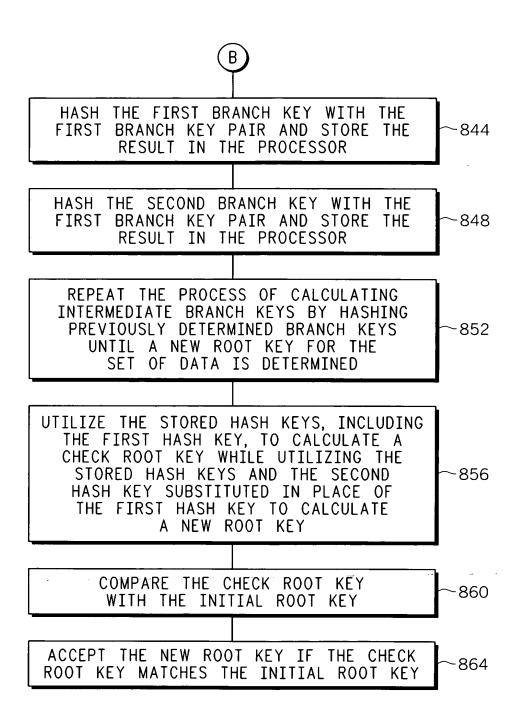


FIG. 8C